



SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Cyclone Ockhi death toll climbs to 36

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DEC 7 (PTI): Three bodies were recovered this morning off the Kerala coast, taking the death toll due to Cyclone Ockhi to 36 even as rescue operations are going on in full swing to trace the 96 missing fishermen.

Sources in the State control room monitoring the rescue operations, said with the recovery of three more bodies, the death toll in Kerala due to the cyclone has gone up to 36 and 96 fishermen are yet to be traced.

While a body was recovered near Alappuzha by the Marine enforcement wing, two bodies were found by Coast Guard ship Vaibhav off Alappuzha-Kochi coast this morning, defence sources said.

An Air Force aircraft AN 32, flying between Kozhikode- Kochi coasts had sighted a fishing boat with about 15 fishermen this morning following which Navy has sent a Dornier aircraft and ship to the area which is close to Lakshadweep islands, the sources said.

Meanwhile, shipping services from Kozhikode to Lakshadweep began today with around 60 passengers boarding the high speed vessel from Bepore this morning.

MV Minicoy, the passenger vessel, berthed at Bepore had suffered some damage in the cyclone following which MMD officials had not granted travel clearance.

Yesterday, the high speed vessel arrived at Bepore from the islands to ferry the passengers, the sources said.

Around 1,600 passengers were transported from Kochi to various islands of Lakshadweep when the shipping services resumed on December 5, according to the sources.

Shipping services from Kochi to the Union Territory was stopped on November 30 to December 2, causing immense hardships to passengers.

From Mangaluru port, M V Amini Divi, will sail for Lakshadweep with 46 passengers tomorrow, the sources added.

Due to the cyclone, about 1,098 passengers had been stranded in the ports of Kochi, Kozhikode and Mangaluru since November 30.

Rs 13.6 cr Development of Magerzong project gets underway at Mangsari

GYALSHING, 07 DEC [IPR]: On the auspicious occasion of, Barahimzong, Chief Minister Pawan Chamling, today laid the foundation stone for the "Development of Magerzong", a heritage site for the Mangar community at Mangsari in West Sikkim today.

The project is being developed under the charged of the Culture and Heritage Department and Tourism and Civil Aviation Department.

Mr Chamling addressed the congregation by extending gratitude to the Mangar community for organizing such a national event at Mangsari. He acknowledged the active participation of all the Mangar communities from Sikkim, Assam and West Bengal.

Whilst speaking to the community, he also mentioned that he has come to them to hear out and honor their demands.

He urged the Ministers, MLAs and Panchayats to always prioritize serving the elderly of Sikkim in their respective areas.

Mr Chamling also highlighted that the project was an initiative to preserve and promote Mangar community in Sikkim making it an example in the country.

He urged the people of the community to develop a sense of ownership for the upcoming development project while emphasizing the importance shown by the government



towards the community regarding the introduction of Mangar language in school curriculum and appointment of teachers.

The demands of the people of the Mangsari were also placed before the CM.

Regarding the constructions of roads to the project area, he on the

spot sanctioned and directed the concerned department to be motorable by the month of March 2018. The construction of the BAC Soreng building, playground of Mangsari School and drinking water facilities in Mangsari area were also sanctioned by the CM.

Mr Chamling was also felicitated

by All Sikkim Mangar Association for his support to the community and for the introduction of Mangar language in the school curriculum as an act to promote and preserve the language in Sikkim.

Minister of Human Resource Development Department, RB Subba, while welcoming the CM and the



people, extended gratitude to the CM for his secularity envisioned Sikkim where all religions can thrive peacefully. He also in his address prayed for the CM's prosperity and that he may continue to work for the betterment of the people of Sikkim.

Tourism Secretary, C Zangpo, presented the technical report on the upcoming project of 'Development of Magerzong' which has been pegged to cost Rs 13.6 crores.

The event also has the presence of Tourism Minister, Ugen T Gyatso, Health Minister, AK Ghatani, Minister of Urban Development & Housing Department, NK Subba, MLAs, KS Lepcha and DN Sherpa, Zilla Adhakshya, Devika Subba, Zilla Up-Adhakshya, Ashok Gurung, and other officials.

China protests India's drone 'intrusion' in Sikkim sector

**KJM VARMA
BEIJING/NEW DELHI, DEC 7 (PTI):**

An Indian drone "crossed over" the border with China and crashed in the Sikkim sector which includes Dokalam after losing contact with the ground control, prompting Beijing to lodge a diplomatic protest with India over the violation of China's territorial sovereignty.

China's Defence Ministry and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that the Indian unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) crashed into the Chinese side of the border recently.

"Recently an Indian Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) invaded China's airspace and crashed in the Sikkim section of China-India border," Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told a media briefing here.

He said the Chinese border

troops had taken a "professional and responsible attitude" to verify the device.

Geng did not spell out when the incident had taken place.

In New Delhi, India's defence ministry today said an unmanned aerial vehicle had "crossed over" the border with China in the Sikkim sector after losing contact with the ground control due to some technical problem.

It said the Indian border security personnel, as per standard protocol, immediately alerted their Chinese counterparts to locate the UAV and they later reverted with its location.

The defence ministry said the exact cause of the incident is under investigation.

Sources said the UAV belonged to the Indian Army.

The incident comes to light days before Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's visit to New

Delhi to attend the Russia-India-China trilateral meeting.

"I want to point out that the Sikkim section of the China India border has been delimited," Chinese Foreign ministry spokesman said, in an apparent reference to the 1890 China-British Treaty.

Beijing often referred to the 1890 Britain-China treaty during the lengthy Dokalam standoff, stating that it has defined the Sikkim section of the boundary with Tibet, therefore the border in that area has been settled.

"The action of the Indian side violated China's sovereignty and it is not conducive to the peace and tranquillity of the border area and China is dissatisfied with this and lodged solemn representation with the Indian side," Geng said.

In its diplomatic protest to India, "China asked the Indian

side to stop the activities of the devices near the border and work with China to maintain peace and tranquillity of the border areas", he said.

Geng declined to reveal the details of the drone. He did not confirm whether the crash has taken place near the Dokalam where the two countries were locked in a 73-day-long border standoff which ended on August 28.

The standoff ended after Chinese troops stopped building a key road close to India's Chicken Neck corridor.

Asked whether the protest was lodged in Beijing or Delhi, he said he is not aware of the details. "I know that China has lodged solemn representation to the Indian side," he said.

Earlier, the Chinese military alleged that an Indian drone has "intruded" into its airspace

turn to pg03

Dhokbu brings home Golden Fox Award for Best Sound Design

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 07 DEC:**

Dhokbu - The Keeper, a Lepcha movie written, produced and directed by Dawa Lepcha, has won the Golden Fox Award in the Best Sound Design category at the Calcutta International Cult Film Festival held on 05 and 06 Dec.

The first Lepcha motion picture, Dhokbu, was released on 22 March, 2017 and had received wide acclaim from the viewers and critics alike.

Apart from sound designing, the movie also got a nod from the jury members in the best director category for which Dawa Lepcha was nominated.

Interestingly, the

movie was one of the semi-finalists at Sydney Indie Film Festival 2017.

The movie was also awarded the 'Outstanding Achievement Award' by the CUFF for outstanding direction, sound designing and cinematography in May 2017.

The movie had Takzen Lepcha as the cinematographer and editor with music from Ongyal Tshering Lepcha.

Theatre actor, Lhakpa Lepcha starred alongside Kikee Doma Bhutia in the lead roles.

The story follows the adventures of a young researcher lost in the wilderness and protected by a strange mythical man of the wild, the Dhokbu.

Discipline and dedication lead to success in any sport, says long distance runner Abhishek



**SAGAR CHETTRI
GANGTOK, 07 DEC:**

Abhishek Prasad Gupta will be leaving the

State on Friday to participate in the 12-Hour Stadium Run scheduled to be held on 10 Dec at

Tyagraj Stadium in Delhi.

The 22-year-old long distance runner hails from Singtam in East Sikkim.

Taking inspiration from the Marathon Man of Sikkim, Amar Subba, Abhishek started practicing long distance running earlier this year.

In his first solo ultra-marathon event, Abhishek covered a distance of 450 KMs in 5 days running through all four districts of Sikkim from 09-13 Aug this year.

After completing a

diploma course in mechanical engineering from Advanced Technical Training Centre [ATTC], Bardang, Abhishek started working for a private company. He, however, soon left his job for his passion for running. He is currently training under his coach, Amar Subba.

"The 12 Hours Stadium Run in Delhi is my first competitive event in long distance running. I have prepared hard under my coach and will try and give my best performance in the

competition. I am hopeful of finishing the run in the first three positions," Abhishek said.

He has set a target of covering around 110 KMs in 12 hours and breaking the existing record of 106 KMs of the competition.

As preparation for the competition, Abhishek recently covered a distance of 90 KMs from Tashi View Point to Rangpo and back to Tashi View Point under the guidance of his coach in 10 hours. He also covered different distances in different

places of the State as a part of his preparation.

"I have been sweating hard in the practice sessions to represent my country in the Asian championship in the near future," he said.

He stated that discipline and dedication in the life and complete obedience to the coach are important to be successful in any sport. He stated that marathon not only keeps a person disciplined but also helps stay healthy and fit.

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16-year-old booked under POCSO Act

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 07 DEC:

A 16-year-old boy has been accused of sexually assaulting a six-year-old minor girl on 02 Dec in West Sikkim.

According to the victim's mother, she had gone to work that day leaving the victim and her eight-year-old brother at home.

The accused then reportedly sent the victim's brother on an errand and sexually assaulted the victim. The victim finally revealed the incident to her mother after she complained of burns and pains.

The victim's mother then lodged a police complaint at Gyalshing Police Station on 06 Dec after which the accused was formally taken into police custody and produced before a juvenile justice board.

The victim meanwhile was sent to hospital for complete medical examination. The accused has been booked under Protection Of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012.

SKM forms district level youth committee for South & West

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 07 DEC:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha held a youth coordination meeting for South and West districts at Singling in Soreng, West Sikkim today.

The meeting was chaired by working president, Mohan P Subba, and was attended by vice-president [in-charge-West], DB Gurung, youth chief convenor, Janak Gurung, youth vice coordinator, Sonam Bhutia, spokesperson, Jacob Khaling, and youth workers from the two districts.

A press release issued by the SKM press & publicity secretary, Abhishek Sharma, informs that district level youth committee was formed under the guidance of chairman, Manjit Lepcha, vice-chairman, Suk Raj Subba, and conveners of respective districts.

During the meet, future activities were discussed wherein around 50 active youth members volunteered to reach out to people of both districts spreading the party's call for change.

The party also welcomed new members today. Among the joining members was Anand Mothey of Meli Dara who reportedly left Sikkim Democratic Front to join SKM.

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RN Chamling floats new party - Sikkim Rajya Manch -



GANGTOK, DEC 7 (PTI): Chief Minister Pawan Chamling's younger brother, RN Chamling, today played the Sikkim Democratic Front government's performance and announced the formation of a new political party.

RN Chamling floated a new party called Sikkim Rajya Manch at a public meeting at Sribadam in West Sikkim and said his

outfit will strive to work for change of both the government as well as the system.

"The SDF has failed to deliver goods to the people during its 23 years' uninterrupted rule since 1994," he said.

The younger brother had won assembly by-polls from Rangang-Yangyan seat which was vacated by the chief

minister in 2014 as he had won from two seats.

"Sikkim and Sikkimese people's interests will be the core agenda of his party if elected to power," the 49 year-old MLA said.

RN Chamling also came down hard on his elder brother alleging that the chief minister was surrounded by sycophants and those with

moneybags.

The Chief Minister has "failed" to usher in development in Sikkim despite ruling the state for 23 years, he alleged and cited unemployment as a major problem in the border state.

Seeking to woo the youth, RN Chamling said that the doors of his party will always remain open for younger generation.

Will extend deadline for mandatory linking of Aadhaar: Centre tells SC

NEW DELHI, DEC 7 (PTI): The deadline for mandatory linking of Aadhaar to avail various services and welfare schemes would shortly be extended till March 31 next year, the Centre today told the Supreme Court.

The statement was made by the Centre before a bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra, which said it may set up a five-judge Constitution bench next week to hear several pleas seeking an interim stay on the decision of mandatory linking of Aadhaar.

Attorney General K K Venugopal vehemently opposed before the bench, which also comprised Justices A M Khanwilkar and D Y Chandrachud, the plea of senior advocate Shyam Divan, appearing for those opposing the Aadhaar scheme, that the ongoing Aadhaar enrolment process be stayed.

"There cannot be a stay on the Aadhaar scheme which has gone on for years," Venugopal said, adding that the current deadline of December 31 will be extended and a notification to

this effect may be issued tomorrow itself.

Venugopal said he was ready and willing to argue the case finally and no interim stay should be granted in such an important matter.

The bench also made it clear that only a larger bench would decide on the plea for grant of interim stay on the Aadhaar scheme.

The top court said that the constitution bench would also fix the date for the final hearing and disposal of the petitions challenging the biometric identification scheme.

On November 27, the apex court had said it may consider setting up a constitution bench to hear pleas challenging the Centre's move to make Aadhaar card mandatory for availing various services and benefits of welfare schemes.

It had on October 30 said a constitution bench would commence hearing on the clutch of petitions against Aadhaar scheme from last week of November.

Recently, a nine-judge con-

stitution bench of the apex court had held that Right to Privacy was a Fundamental Right under the Constitution. Several petitioners challenging the validity of Aadhaar had claimed it violated privacy rights.

The Centre had on October 25 told the top court that the deadline for mandatory linking of Aadhaar to receive benefits of government schemes has been extended till March 31, 2018 for those who do not have the 12-digit unique biometric identification number and were willing to enrol for it.

The Attorney General had told the court that no coercive action would be taken against those who do not have the Aadhaar card but are willing to enrol for. He had said such people would not be denied the benefits of social welfare schemes till March 31.

In a note to the court, the government had said that "those who have Aadhaar are required to seed/link their Aadhaar with SIM card, with bank account,

PAN card and other schemes where section 7 notifications have been issued".

"The government will be open for the deadline for linking Aadhaar to various programmes being extended for another three months till March 31, 2018 for those who do not have Aadhaar," the note had said.

Some petitioners in the top court have termed the linking of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) number with bank accounts and mobile numbers as "illegal and unconstitutional".

They have also objected to the CBSE's alleged move to make Aadhaar card mandatory for students appearing for examinations, a contention denied by the Centre.

One of the counsel representing the petitioners had earlier said that final hearing on the main Aadhaar matter was necessary as the government "cannot compel" citizens to link their Aadhaar with either bank accounts or cell phone numbers.

No law provides change of woman's religion after marriage: SC

NEW DELHI, DEC 7 (PTI): The Supreme Court today said the law does not sanction the concept of a woman's religion getting merged with her husband's faith after an inter-religion marriage.

A five-judge Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra was dealing a legal question whether a Parsi woman loses her religious identity if she marries a man from a different religion.

The bench, also comprising Justices A K Sikri, A M Khanwilkar, D Y Chandrachud and Ashok Bhushan, asked senior advocate Gopal Subramaniam, representing the 'Valsad Parsi Trust', to take instruction and apprise it on December 14 as to whether it can allow Goolrokh M Gupta, a Parsi woman who had married a Hindu, to attend the last rites of her parents.

Gupta has challenged the customary law, upheld by the Gujarat High Court in 2010, that a Parsi woman marrying a Hindu loses her religious rights in the Parsi community and hence, loses the right to visit the 'Tower of Silence' in the event of her father's death to perform the last rites.

"There is no law which says that a woman loses religious identity after marrying a man from another faith... Moreover, the Special Marriage Act is there and allows that two persons can marry and maintain their respective religious identities," the bench said.

The bench said it was only the woman who can decide about her religious identity by exercising her right to choice.

BJP to welcome the fruits & vegetables ban only if proper planning has been done

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 07 DEC:

Bharatiya Janta Party's Sikkim unit has asserted that if the State Government is really sincere towards its announcement to ban the import of fruits and vegetables from 01 April 2018 onwards, then it should immediately issue the notification for the same.

"If the government has made this announcement with proper planning and that it will not affect any particular section of the society then BJP is ready to welcome this daring decision of the government towards making Sikkim self-reliant," reads a press

communiqué from BJP spokesperson, DN Nepal.

The release adds that if the announcement does not have any sound base like other announcements in the past, then the decision will directly affect businessmen, consumers and farmers of the State. It will also affect the working class, unemployed, landless, employees and hoteliers and will create a situation confusion and shortage in the State.

The release also alleges that the government was making these announcements to take away the attention of the people from the main issues of the State.

Cleanliness drive in Upper Singhik



SUMMIT REPORT
MANGAN, 07 DEC:

A massive cleanliness drive was conducted today by the public of Upper Singhik, under Ringhim-Nampatam GPU, in North Sikkim.

Litter strewn around the area was cleared and disposed.

An awareness programme was also held for the public on proper disposal of garbage.

It may be mentioned here, Ringhim-Nampatam GPU has been nominated as Adharsh GPU under the Sansad Adarsh Gaon Yojana.

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PM Modi to campaign in Meghalaya on Dec 16

SHILLONG, DEC 7 (PTI): Prime Minister Narendra Modi will kick start campaign for the BJP in poll-bound Meghalaya on December 16.

Election for the 60-member Assembly is scheduled to be held in Meghalaya early next year, but the dates were not announced yet.

The tenure of the current Assembly expires on March 6.

"The BJP headquarters have directed us to prepare for the visit of the Prime Minister on December 16," state BJP president Shibun Lyndoh told PTI.

Modi would inaugurate a BJP office near the

official residence of the chief minister and address a public meeting at the Polo Grounds later.

Earlier, Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh was scheduled to inaugurate the party office today.

The Congress is in power in the state since May 2009.

China protests India's drone 'intrusion' in Sikkim sector

contd from pg01

recently and crashed into the Chinese side of the border and voiced strong dissatisfaction and opposition over the incident.

The Indian UAV "intruded" into China's airspace and crashed recently, and China's border troops have conducted identification and verification over the vehicle, Zhang Shuili, deputy head of the combat bureau of the Western Theatre Command's joint staff department said.

The Chinese ministry's western theatre command jurisdiction covers all most all of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and including Tibet's border region with India and the Ladakh region.

"India's move has infringed upon China's territorial sovereignty, and we are strongly dissatisfied with and opposed to this," Zhang has been quoted by state-run Xinhua news agency as saying.

"We will fulfil our mission and responsibility and defend China's national sovereignty and security resolutely," he said.

Asked whether the drone issue would figure in Wang's talks with Indian officials when he visits New Delhi, Geng said the "goal" of the Chinese foreign minister's visit was to attend the RIC meeting.

"When he is in India he will meet with the senior officials of the Indian side. At that time, the two sides will exchange views on China-India relations and other issues of the common concern," he said.

Wang's visit to Delhi will be the first visit by a top Chinese official to India after the Doklam crisis and commencement of the second five-year term for Chinese President Xi Jinping.

FUNERAL SERVICE



The Funeral Service of late Sonam Ongain Karthak (54 yrs.), R/o Behind Marygold School, Upper Sichey, D.C. Court, Link Road, Gangtok, East Sikkim who left for heavenly abode on 06th December, 2017 falls on 08th December, 2017 at 10 A.M. from our residence.

RSVP:

Mr. R.T. Karthak (brother): 9734955207,
Mr. Sonam Raleon Karthak (youngest son): 9593371551,

Mr. Binod Kr. Chettri (brother-in-law): 9933462560.

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Playing rummy with small stakes in a club not gambling: Delhi HC

NEW DELHI, DEC 7 (PTI): The Delhi High Court has agreed with a lower court's observation that playing rummy with small stakes at a club does not amount to gambling. Justice Valmiki J Mehta's observation came on an appeal filed by one Suresh Kumar, challenging a trial court order directing him to pay Rs 3 lakh to the Central Secretariat Club here as damages for filing a false police complaint.

"Trial court, in my opinion, also has rightly held that merely because a card game of rummy was played in the club premises with small stakes from a few annas to some rupees would not make it gambling as held by the Supreme Court," Justice Mehta said.

Kumar, a former employee of the club, had complained that a "mafia" operated there and the club allowed gambling within its premises.

The trial court had, however, opined that Kumar had failed to discharge the burden of proof on him.

The High Court agreed with the lower court's observations and noted that Kumar was "frustrated" as he had been fired by the club over misconduct.

"I completely agree with the discussion, reasoning and conclusion of the trial court because the complaint filed by the appellant (Kumar) was on account of his frustration of having been removed from the services of the club and the allegations made by him were not bonafidely made..."

"They were made either as a revenge or to pressurise the club to take the him back in service (along) with the fact that complaint was made after around two years of him being removed from the services with the club," the court said.

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Taktse Intl School to collaborate with Garden High Intl School for overall development of students

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 07 DEC:**

Two educationists from Kolkata visited Taktse International School and interacted with faculty members and students of the school today.

Dr Anuradha Das and Professor Nandini Mukherjee are leading educationists and school leaders from Kolkata. Over the past three decades, they led the stellar growth of Calcutta International School and turned it into one of the best schools in the country.

It is informed that they have extensive experience in implementing international curricula such as the GCSE and A-Levels [CIE and EDEXCEL Boards] as well as the International Baccalaureate and the acceptance of the same in the Indian context. They are presently in the State to collaborate with Taktse International School.

At present, Dr Das is the Director of Garden High International School, Kolkata and Chief Academic Advisor to Satikanta Guha Foundation while Prof Mukherjee is the Dean



of Garden High International School.

Speaking to media persons this afternoon, they mentioned that it was the first association of Garden High International School with Taktse International School.

They informed that teach-

ers and students exchange programmes will be starting soon so to provide exposure and to share best teaching practices and methodologies. They added that it will also help teachers and students of both schools to learn about each other's rich traditions and cul-

tural heritage.

"Our top priority will be to provide the best to the students and cater to their needs," they said.

They also shared the merits of International Boards and curriculum and how it is helping students in their overall de-

velopment.

Consultant of TIS, Aman Singh, stated that TIS is open and interested in reaching out to likeminded schools and experienced educationists from the country and outside.

He added that the school has tremendous connection with international universities abroad.

He further informed that TIS has set a new record for academic excellence in India with Ngawang Choden Lachungpa, a student at Taktse and native of North Sikkim, becoming the country-topper in English Literature in the AS level of the Cambridge International Examination [CIE] held earlier this year in May.

"She brought to TIS the coveted award of 'High Achievement' and has put Sikkim on the national map of international school education," he highlighted.

The press conference was also addressed by TIS Acting Head, Reshma Thapa, and Head of Senior School and Department of English, Dawa Lhamu Yolmo.

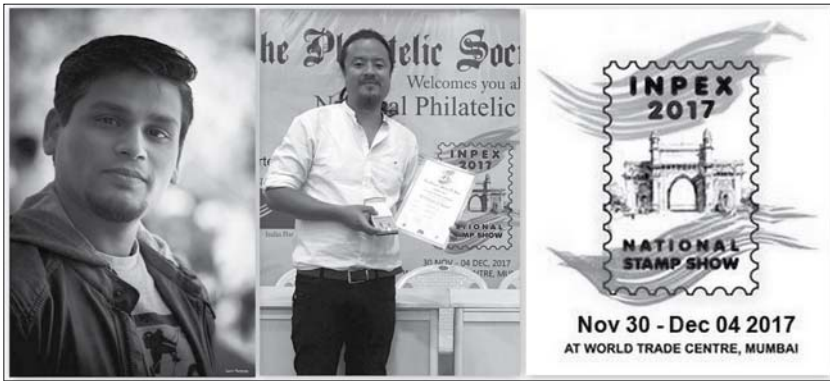
Sikkim Philatelic Society bags two silvers at National Philatelic Exhibition 2017

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 07 DEC:**

Sikkim Philatelic and Numismatic Society [SPNS] bagged two silver medals in the thematic category of philately [stamp collection] at the recently held Indian National Philatelic Exhibition [INPEX] 2017 in Mumbai, a press release informs.

Roshan Prasad from Singtam and Vivek Yonzon from Darjeeling won the medals with their exhibits on "The Story of Cricket" and "Elements of Music", respectively.

It may be mentioned here that INPEX 2017



National Philatelic Exhibition was organized by the Philatelic Society of India in association with Indian Postal Department and the Philatelic

Congress of India to commemorate its 120th foundation year at the World Trade Centre in Mumbai from 30 Nov to 04 Dec.

The SPNS was repre-

sented at the exhibition by its patron from Murshidabad, Surya Kanta Biswas, and Vivek Yonzon from Singhmari in Darjeeling. Based in

Sikkim, the members of the Society are from places like Sikkim, Darjeeling, Siliguri and North Bengal.

The event featured

a display of more than 400 frames of philatelic material with competition in many categories like traditional philately, postal history, Indian pre & post Independence stamps, thematic philately, school collections and many more with almost 150 participants from all over India. Special covers were also released during the exhibition.

SPNS president, Ganesh Pradhan, in the release, has congratulated Roshan Prasad and Vivek Yonzon for their achievement at INPEX 2017 and added that both the philatelists have brought laurel and recognition to the society.

10 from House of Champion Karate and Kickboxing Academy selected for the NE c'ship



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 07 DEC:**

Ten karatekas from House of Champion Karate and Kickboxing Academy have been selected to represent Sikkim in the upcoming North East Karate Championship 2017 to be held from 16-18 Dec at Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh.

The selected players are Anvi Basnett, Drishna Rai, Vihan Neupaney, Sweekar Giri, Pravesh Dhungel, Priyanka Choudhary, Manav Agarwal, Permiela Subba, Anita Gurung and Sushmita Rai.

It is informed that most of the selected karatekas are from Holy Cross School and Rey Valley International School.

Mizoram employees withdraw stir after CM warns of action

AIZAWL, DEC 7 (PTI): Mizoram government employees today called off their three-day stir on the second day, following Chief Minister Lal Thanhawla's warning that stern action would be taken against them if they continue their agitation.

Spearheaded by the Federation of Mizoram Government Employees and Workers, state government employees took mass casual leaves since yesterday, demanding immediate enhancement of salaries in

accordance with the recommendations of the Centre's seventh Pay Commission.

The agitation was called off today, the Federation said in a statement.

Officials said it was withdrawn after the chief minister warned that stern disciplinary action would be taken against the employees if they continue to inconvenience the people.

The functioning of the Mizoram government had come to a halt yesterday, the first day of the agi-

tation, as all the employees stayed away from work.

The state government has set up a Pay Implementation Committee to look into the issue of salary enhancement and is waiting for its report and recommendation, state Finance Minister Lalsawta had said yesterday.

Leaders of the Federation of Mizoram Government Employees and Workers, however, alleged that the government had formed the panel as a delaying tactic.

SHSC winter football coaching-cum-selection camp at Golitar



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 07 DEC:**

Sikkim Himalayan Sporting Club [SHSC] will be organising a month-long winter football coaching-cum-selection camp in association with JBC Club, Singtam from 10 Dec onwards at Golitar in Singtam, East Sikkim.

The camp is open for players in the 08-19 years age-group and will offer boarding facilities as well.

It is informed that the selected players from the camp will be inducted into Sikkim Himalayan SC for the upcoming U-15 and U-18 Youth I-league 2018.

The organisers have formed a working committee for the camp comprising of TB Pradhan, Lakpa Sherpa, Andrew Lepcha, Sangay Bhutia, Niraj Pradhan, Krishna Chettri, Kewal Pradhan and Krishna Chettri.

The overall incharge of the camp is SHSC

coach, Pranay Subba, and is being supported by Chewang Dorjee Tamang.

Interested players have been requested to contact the club for further details. The registration form is also available at RK Studio in Singtam.

113 ICAI Univ students to graduate on Saturday

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 07 DEC:**

113 STUDENTS FROM Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts of India (ICFAI) University are all set to receive their degrees in Bachelor of Business Administration, Bachelor of Commerce (Hon), Bachelor of Business Administration and Bachelor of Legislative Law Honors (Hons), Bachelor of Computer Application, Bachelor of Hospitality and Tourism Management (BHTM) and Master of Business Administration at the university's convocation ceremony scheduled to be held on 09 Dec at Mayfair Hotels and Resorts in Ranipool, East Sikkim, a press release from the university informs.

Speaker, Sikkim Legislative Assembly, Kedar Nath Rai, is scheduled to attend the ceremony as the chief guest and will deliver the convocation address.

The ceremony will also be attended by Officer on Special Duty from ICAI Society, Hyderabad, Vivek Phadke and Chancellor RP Kaushik.

21 students will be receiving gold medals for their excellence in their respective fields. An additional 16 students will receive silver medals.

| SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES | |
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| DERBY SUPER THURSDAY | |
| Draw No: 1 | Draw Date: 07/12/17 |
| 1st Prize Rs. 500000/- | ₹ 36532 |
| 2nd Prize Rs. 10000/- | ₹ 10000 |
| 3rd Prize Rs. 5000/- | ₹ 5000 |
| 4th Prize Rs. 1000/- | ₹ 1000 |
| 5th Prize Rs. 500/- | ₹ 500 |
| 6th Prize Rs. 100/- | ₹ 100 |
| 7th Prize Rs. 50/- | ₹ 50 |
| 8th Prize Rs. 20/- | ₹ 20 |
| 9th Prize Rs. 10/- | ₹ 10 |
| 10th Prize Rs. 5/- | ₹ 5 |
| 11th Prize Rs. 2/- | ₹ 2 |
| 12th Prize Rs. 1/- | ₹ 1 |
| 13th Prize Rs. 0.50/- | ₹ 0.50 |
| 14th Prize Rs. 0.25/- | ₹ 0.25 |
| 15th Prize Rs. 0.10/- | ₹ 0.10 |
| 16th Prize Rs. 0.05/- | ₹ 0.05 |
| 17th Prize Rs. 0.02/- | ₹ 0.02 |
| 18th Prize Rs. 0.01/- | ₹ 0.01 |
| 19th Prize Rs. 0.005/- | ₹ 0.005 |
| 20th Prize Rs. 0.002/- | ₹ 0.002 |
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SIKKIM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

SELECTION TRIAL FOR SANTOSH TROPHY

A selection trial to form Sikkim State Team for the forthcoming Santosh Trophy championship will be held at Paljor Stadium, Gangtok on 12th, 13th & 14th Dec 2017. All the Sikkim Premier Division clubs are requested to send maximum of 10 (ten) best players from their respective club for the trial. They are required to report to the designated coaches at the field at 1 pm on 12th Dec 2017 positively.

(Menla Ethenpa)
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SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Externalising Threats, Foisting Insecurities

Projecting enemies does not resolve anything

A respected professor of peace & conflict studies, addressing a workshop in Sikkim some years ago spoke about the insecurity dilemmas of South Asian nations and how this deters not just peace, but also development in the region. It has been some years since he shared that observation, but nothing has changed on ground, in fact, if anything, the insecurities have only deepened.

The attempt here will be to play these international relations arguments into the local, cross-border realities and see what the possible solutions are. The eight countries that make up South Asia are all afflicted with high levels of insecurity and lack the institutional mechanisms which could address these insecurities and the resultant confrontations through non-violent conflict resolution tools. Failed and weak states were also gripped with internal security threats. Weak states also externalize these threats, as is apparent in the India-bashing that South Asian countries ranging from Pakistan to Sri Lanka to Bangladesh and even Nepal are wont to do. These attitudes obviously force individual countries to turn away from each other and resist genuine inter-State cooperation even though such cooperation has worked with tremendous success for EU, ASEAN and even AU. One reason why this has not happened here is because the option of inter-State cooperation to resolve conflicts and develop a more pronounced economic inter-dependence which would reinforce binding peace has not been explored and propounded with adequate commitment, neither by the leaders, nor even the academia or the civil society.

Extend this argument to our immediate region and the evidence of its accuracy comes through just as convincingly. The aandolan in Darjeeling continues to externalize its failures and weaknesses, in the present case, by painting a bulls-eye on the WB State Government and taking pot-shots at it. The “irredentist realities” that professor had spoken of as complicating the inter-State relations in South Asia are very much existent in the Sikkim-Darjeeling-West Bengal relations as well and are frequently teased, as has been apparent in the comments made by leaders from across the inter-state border on the political situation and system in Sikkim. Of course, of late, even para-dropped into Sikkim BJP leaders have also made rather condescending remarks about Sikkim and its democracy.

It is obvious that the Sikkim-bashing by Bengal leaders, whether from Darjeeling or further down the plains, is only setting up the stage for a more pronounced meddling in Sikkim's affairs in the coming days. Students of Peace & Conflict Studies are often shown Afghanistan as a failed state and there can be no arguments against this conclusion. Afghanistan under the Taliban externalized all its threats on to the entire Western world. Among the Very Weak States in the region is Nepal and its traditional animosity towards India whom it blames for everything that goes wrong in the country needs no detailing. The weak states are Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, all of which continue to deny peace to their people by amplifying perceived and real “external” threats. Now Burma has joined the chorus as well.

But if that be the present reality, what are the prospects for the future? Anyone would recommend more involvement of the intellectual elite and the civil society in building the grounds for increased cooperation and exchange and the establishment of unanimous non-interventionist norms. Too many people have been talking over each other. The only way forward, however, is for them to speak to each other. Confrontational attitudes, even though they deflect attention for while, fail in the long run because they make everyone insecure. The sooner everyone learns that, the better.

WRITE US: Readers are invited to comment on, criticise, run down, even appreciate if they like something in this paper. Letters carrying abusive/indecorous language and personal attacks, except when against people responsible in this newspaper (who are fair game), will have to be ignored. Letters which carry forward a conversation or initiate a dialogue will command immediate attention and receive prominence. Mail us at: letters@summittimes.com

Opinion

Trump's Manipulation of Mass Consciousness

DR. MIKE SOSTERIC
theconversation.com

We like to think of our memories as sepia celluloid snippets of our life upon this Earth.

We think they “reflect us” and remind us of the person we like to be. True, memories can be iffy sometimes. We don't always remember all the details, but mostly our memories are real.

For a long time, scientists backed us up. Early memory researchers thought that most memories retained some connection with reality. To be sure, memories were elaborately constructed in a bubbling and boiling cauldron of expectation, emotion, motivation, personal opinion, prejudice and self-delusion — what we scientists call, in our typically obtuse way, self-induced, systematic distortations. But there would usually be some element of reality.

As it turns out, we are wrong. When it comes to memory, reality need not apply.

Psychologists have demonstrated that a skilled manipulator can create memories out of the fantastical thin air. Psychologist Julia Shaw does this in experiments with students. Using basic psychology, she can convince 70 per cent of her subjects that they committed a crime, when in fact they never did. It is “alarmingly easy” to do, she says.

How does she achieve this remarkable fabrication?

First, she makes people trust her. Second, she establishes her authority. Third, she constructs their new memory by invoking, through image, visualization and narrative, the subject's imagination.

Like a potter at her wheel, she moulds and shapes the memory, layering in detail and reinforcing through repetition. Finally, she fires the new memory in the kiln of social pressure and group membership. Voila, the student is a convicted criminal!

HUMAN SURVIVAL REQUIRES GROUP COHERENCE

It's shocking, but understandable, from an evolutionary perspective. Neurological mechanisms that create malleable memory do not make us sheeple, but they do go a long way towards creating group identification and coherence, an absolute requisite for human survival before advanced civilization.

Malleable memory is an evolutionary thing, and a lot more common than you think.

For better or worse, we're all doing it all the time, unconsciously or consciously.

Even — perhaps especially — Donald Trump. Like Mickey Mouse in Fantasia, he uses his Twitter magic wand to exploit this “malleable memory effect” to achieve ultra-right economic and social goals.

Just as Julia Shaw did with her students, Trump establishes trust by saying things like: “Nobody would fight harder for free speech than me,” “I will create jobs like no one else,” I'm the greater doer of things and suggests I'm a good old down home



Donald J. Trump
@realDonaldTrump

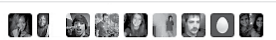


Sorry losers and haters, but my I.Q. is one of the highest -and you all know it! Please don't feel so stupid or insecure, it's not your fault

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1,105
RETWEETS

563
FAVORITES



6:37 PM - 8 May 13

family boy, just like you.

He establishes authority by saying things like “Nobody knows jobs like I do”, by pretending he's the smartest guy in the room and the best man for the job.

HIGHEST IQ?

After all, he's got the highest IQ, and the biggest crowds. He's the highest-rated and the best thing ever. “Believe me,” he says, and his followers believe him.

He uses images, visualizations and narratives to create whatever memory and new reality he wants. He does it, as he well knows, with consummate mastery and skill.

He practised these skills when he, and the people who were helping him, took down Hillary Clinton. He portrayed her to the people as a crooked, corrupt, incompetent and dangerous failure who would screw over Americans and take them to war. He reinforced it by naming her Crooked Hillary.

And, finally, he invoked group membership and social pressure to lock it all down. He divides Americans into “winners” and “losers,” and invites the winners to stand on his side. They apparently heed his call:

There's no doubt Trump is a skillful manipulator of people's memory system. It explains why people who would never ordinarily have voted for Trump cast their ballots for him anyway. He is not a moron, and he's certainly not crazy.

ADDICTED TO ACCUMULATING CASH?

He may be heavily addicted to the accumulation of money, to the point where he'd rather invoke nuclear war with Korea than slow its flow, but he's not mad, stupid or crazy, that's for sure.

I imagine he's having a good chuckle. While everybody moralizes and judges, he simply “gets it done.” He is making America great again, for the filthy rich. Under the discredited guise of trickle-down economics, he is accused of trouncing

on everybody, and possibly taking us all to war, so he and his brethren can legislate their conservative agenda.

In the interests of the uber-rich, his administration has decimated environmental controls, executed a coup d'état of the American education system and passed into law the “biggest” tax bill and tax cuts in history. The only thing he's failed at so far is wiping out health care for the poor, but he might also get that job done in the future.

So what to do? I suppose that depends on whether you're a fan of trickle-down economics or not, or think Trump's a dangerous traitor or not. Personally, I'm on the side of Will Rogers and the IMF, both of whom say, in their own special way, trickle-down economics is a joke.

If you're not a Trump fan, recognize that tweets about the Access Hollywood tape and other tweet storms are not madness, they are carefully designed mini-memes designed to manipulate mass memory.

Making fun of him and calling him crazy only serves his agenda. I suggest we all quit playing into his hands and instead do what Chelsea Handler did. Start taking his agenda, and his threat, a whole lot more seriously than we are.

[the writer is Associate Professor, Sociology, Athabasca University]

Transphobia, Islamophobia and the free speech alibi

JASMIN ZINE
theconversation.com

“I disagree with what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.”

This quote, often attributed to the 18th-century French Enlightenment philosopher Voltaire (but actually based on the paraphrasing of his work by English biographer, Evelyn Beatrice Hall), has been used as the hallmark for freedom of speech as a fundamental democratic right.

While Voltaire may not have actually uttered those words, he did say: “Tolerance has never provoked a civil war; intolerance has covered the Earth in carnage.”

Both sentiments have come into play during recent debates about free speech in two varying contexts: University classes regarding the use of gender-neutral pronouns and in the framing of the House of Commons Motion 103 combating Islamophobia.

These may seem like disparate concerns but they are in fact related in the way the so-called “alt-right” uses free speech as a rhetorical prop in their campaigns of ideological intimidation.

I am a sociology professor at Wilfrid Laurier University where faculty concerns over a teaching assistant's decision to show a video of University of Toronto professor Jordan Peterson arguing against the use of gender-neutral pronouns has been widely publicized and critiqued.

Supporting the right of transgender people to be acknowledged out-

side of gender-binary language that erases their identities and experiences is branded as left-wing, bleeding heart “political correctness.” When academics opt to keep views that refuse this acknowledgement from being uncritically purveyed, it's seen as undermining free speech rather than preserving human rights.

As an Islamophobia studies scholar, I recently testified in support of Motion 103 before a Canadian Her-

dom of expression and the intolerance that Voltaire alludes to becomes clear. Sacrificing human rights on the altar of free speech has become a strategy in the “alt-right” tool kit of bigotry.

Right-wing ideologues use free speech as an alibi for their transphobic and Islamophobic rhetoric. It has become a tool for related neo-fascist groups to mount campaigns of vandalism, harassment and intimidation. On my campus, colleagues have re-

violent “rightlash.”

By accusing social justice classrooms as being “indoctrination cults,” Jordan Peterson manages to claim innocence for his own political rhetoric while the actions of his extreme-right supporters say otherwise

As an academic, I support free speech as well as academic freedom. But these are not without limitations. Freedom of expression is limited by the consequences of that speech. Spreading hate is not free speech.

When I show videos of controversial speakers like Peterson and Anne Coulter in my classes, it is within a critical context where students can deliberate on the boundaries between free speech, hate speech and human rights in a democratic society based on social justice ideals.

Using free speech as an alibi to deny transgender people the freedom to identify themselves through the use of gender-neutral pronouns is tantamount to disregarding and dismissing their personhood.

Using free speech as an alibi to deny Muslims the freedom to name their oppression when members of their faith were gunned down while praying adds insult to grave injury.

Our freedoms only extend to the point where they do not infringe on the freedom of others. Promoting free speech as a democratic ideal without respecting its limits and taking responsibility for its consequences is antithetical to the greater good of a just and inclusive society.

[the writer is Professor of Sociology, Wilfrid Laurier University]



itage Parliamentary subcommittee. The non-binding motion condemned Islamophobia and religious discrimination in Canada. However, the longstanding right-wing contention against the motion and the term “Islamophobia” wrongly assumes the motion will deny them the freedom to criticize Islam.

As I sit at the intersection of these free speech concerns being pitted against equally important social justice issues, the tension between free-

ceived death threats and transgender students have been harassed.

After putting forward Motion 103, Liberal MP Iqra Khalid received 50,000 vile sexist and racist emails in one week, and hate crimes against Muslims increased 250 per cent last year.

Yet there is silence around this from the right-wing ideologues who, if they truly regard their politics as promoting the greater good, have failed to say “not in my name” to this

Bengal to announce new IT policy in January: Mamata

KOLKATA, DEC 07 (PTI): The West Bengal government will announce a new information technology (IT) policy at Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS) in January, chief minister Mamata Banerjee said today.

The government has had discussions with industry bodies such as ASSOCHAM, CII and Nasscom before framing the policy, she said.

"We have decided to announce a new IT policy during the BGBS in January. We want to create more jobs in the IT sector and might even dole out property tax, rental tax reliefs and other subsidies," Banerjee said at the Infocom 2017 here.

The CM also said companies like TCS, Cognizant were expanding here and ITC Infotech will begin operations soon.

The government is also setting up a hardware park at Sonarpur near the metropolis, she said.

"There is space available for creating 2.6 lakh job opportunities in the state," she said.

39 held for unlawful fishing in turtle sanctuary

KENDRAPARA (ODISHA), DEC 7 (PTI): Coast guard personnel have arrested 39 fishermen for alleged unlawful trawling activities in turtle concentration zones of Odisha's Gahirmatha marine sanctuary.

Four fishing vessels used by the intruders to venture into the prohibited sanctuary were also seized by the patrolling unit on board a ship, Coast Guard commandant Ashis said.

The interception took place yesterday near Agarnasi coast, around 11 nautical miles from Paradip shore, Ashis said.

The coast guard ship had spotted the trawls and asked the fishermen to surrender through a wireless communication system. They surrendered soon after, he said.

The fishing vessels had trespassed into prohibited corridors, contravening the provisions of Wildlife Protection Act, Orissa Marine Fishing Regulation Act and the rules of the marine sanctuary.

The fishermen and the seized vessels were later handed over to forest department, the commandant added.

The turtles usually get ensnared in fishing nets or hit by trawls' propellers, Gahirmatha Forest Range Officer Subrata Patra explained.

"The Coast Guard has done a commendable job to ensure the safety of turtles in the sanctuary," Patra said, adding that the fishermen were produced before a local court, which remanded them in judicial custody for 14 days.

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Registration of 1,600 Myanmarese refugees begins in Mizoram



AIZAWL, DEC 7 (PTI): Registration of 1,600 Myanmarese nationals have been undertaken to ascertain the number of refugees in four villages in southern Mizoram's Lawngtlai district, deputy commissioner, Arun T said today.

The Myanmarese nationals fled their country due to clashes between the Myanmarese Army

and the Arakan militants.

The deputy commissioner said officials of the district administration were keeping a close watch on the refugees and elaborate security arrangements have been made.

"We like to see that they go back once the fighting ends across the border," he said, adding, the district administration had to render assistance

on humanitarian grounds.

The refugees, majority of them women and children, crossed the border and took shelter in Hmawngbuchhuah, Zochachhuah, Laitlang and Dumzautlang villages after the Myanmarese Army launched a major offensive against the Arakan militants in Myanmar's Chin State near the Mizoram border.

Centre plans border protection grid to check influx of Rohingyas, B'deshis

KOLKATA, DEC 7 (PTI): A border protection grid on the lines of Unified Command set up in insurgency-hit states will soon come up in five eastern states sharing borders with Bangladesh to check illegal immigrants including Rohingyas.

At a meeting of chief ministers and home ministers of West Bengal, Assam, Mizoram, Meghalaya and Tripura here, Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh to-

day said the concept of the grid has been planned as a multi-pronged and foolproof mechanism to secure the 4,036-km-long Indo-Bangla border.

"The grid will comprise various elements namely physical barriers, non-physical barriers, surveillance, system, Intelligence agencies, state police, BSF and other state and central agencies," he said in his opening remarks.

Of the border with Bangladesh, 2,217 km falls in West Bengal, 262 km in Assam, 443 km in Meghalaya, 856 km in Tripura and 180 km in Mizoram.

This is the fourth meeting of the chief ministers of states, which share international borders, called by the home minister. Three separate meetings of chief ministers of states, sharing borders with Pakistan, China and

Myanmar, was held earlier.

Unified Command structures comprising army, paramilitary forces and state police are in place in states like Jammu and Kashmir, Assam and Nagaland to effectively deal with militants.

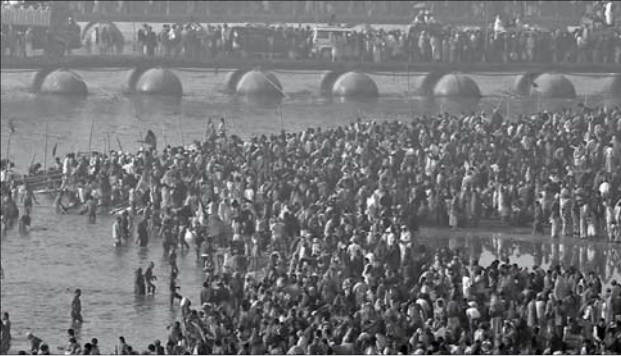
Influx of Rohingyas and Bangladeshis though the porous Indo-Bangla border has been major concerns for India.

UNESCO recognises Kumbh Mela as India's cultural heritage

NEW DELHI, DEC 7 (PTI): India's Kumbh Mela has been recognised by UNESCO as an "intangible cultural heritage of humanity", a tweet posted today by the international organisation said.

The Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage under the UN body inscribed Kumbh Mela on the "Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity" at its 12th session in Jeju, South Korea. The meeting, which opened on December 4, will end on December 9.

Kumbh Mela, considered the world's largest congregation of religious pilgrims, joins new elements from Botswana,



Colombia, Venezuela, Mongolia, Morocco, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates on the list.

"A very proud moment for us as sacred Kumbh Mela is just inscribed as the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO,"

Culture Minister Mahesh Sharma tweeted.

The inscription of elements on the list helps countries which are a part of UNESCO's convention for safeguarding cultural heritage to mobilise international cooperation and assis-

tance for ensuring that communities continue to practise and transmit such aspects of their heritage.

The Kumbh Mela, held in Allahabad, Haridwar, Ujjain and Nasik, represents a syncretic set of rituals related to

worship and cleansing in holy rivers.

The inscription of Kumbh Mela was recommended by the expert body which examines in detail nominations submitted by Member States.

The Committee also took note of the fact that knowledge and skills related to Kumbh Mela are transmitted through the Guru-Shishya parampara (teacher-student relationship) by way of saints and sadhus teaching their disciples about traditional rituals and chants.

"Kumbh Mela is considered to be the largest peaceful congregation of pilgrims on earth, attended by millions irrespective of caste, creed or gender," Sharma tweeted.

'RBI's MDR rationalisation to hurt merchant acquiring banks'

MUMBAI, DEC 7 (PTI): Analysts today said the Reserve Bank move to reduce merchant discount rate (MDR) on debit cards is negative for acquiring banks like HDFC Bank and Axis Bank in the short-term as the surge in volumes is unlikely to make up for the losses.

"Volume is unlikely to make up for the shortfall in reduction of fees in the short-term and

hence, the near-term impact would be marginally negative for a few players like Axis, HDFC, ICICI and SBI," analysts at domestic brokerage Kotak Securities said in a note.

Their peers at American brokerage Morgan Stanley said the move can cause a revenue impact of up to 0.3 per cent on the four lenders and a dip in profitability of up to 1.1 per cent.

However, both the notes welcomed the move as being positive, and in the right direction which will help in the long-term.

At present, banks are allowed to charge up to 0.75 per cent as the MDR for transactions up to Rs 2,000 and 1 per cent for other ones. The new guidelines issued yesterday are applicable from January 1, and make a

shift in the structure to basing the charges on the size of the merchant.

Debit card transactions at merchants with turnover of up to Rs 20 lakh will attract an MDR of 0.40 per cent with a cap of Rs 200 per transaction, while the same at others will be 0.9 per cent with a cap of Rs 1,000.

According to RBI Deputy Governor BP Kanungo, the move is aimed at

increasing the stagnant debit card transactions but will also make sure that the acquirers get sufficiently compensated for investing in the infrastructure.

It can be noted that earlier this year, economists at the country's largest lender SBI had come out with a study pegging the overall losses for lenders due to the push on the digital front.

Trinamool subverting democracy in West Bengal

JALPAIGURI (WB), DEC 7 (PTI): West Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh today alleged that the Trinamool Congress had come to power in the state via democratic process but since then it is subverting democracy in every sphere.

The Trinamool Congress has become the property of two persons and others are merely employees of the party, he said without naming anybody.

"From educational institutions to administrative machinery -- no one can find democracy in West Bengal. It is being destroyed," Ghosh alleged here in Jalpaiguri district.

Posts of ministers in the Mamata Banerjee government and leaders

in her party are not safe and they cannot work with dignity, he told reporters at New Jalpaiguri railway station.

Ghosh said Mamata Banerjee has been attacking the BJP as she is afraid of the saffron party.

"People do not want the Trinamool Congress now. They want the BJP. It is certain that the BJP will bring another round of change in West Bengal," he said.

To a question, Ghosh said no decision has been taken yet by the party about the post Mukul Roy will get.

Roy has joined the BJP from the Trinamool Congress last month.

Later, Roy also reached Jalpaiguri in another train to attend a party programme.

Labourer from Bengal burnt alive in Rajasthan, video uploaded on Social Media

JAIPUR, DEC 7 (PTI): In a shocking incident, a labourer was burnt alive and a video of the gruesome incident was uploaded on social media in Rajasthan's Rajasamand district, police said.

The slain labourer, who hailed from West Bengal, was identified as Mohammad Afrazul.

The accused who allegedly committed the crime yesterday in Raj Nagar has been arrested, SP Rajasamand Manoj Kumar told PTI.

He said that the accused Shabbu Lal, a resident of Raj nagar, was

being interrogated.

Home minister Gulabchand Kataria condemned the incident and said that the case has been handed over to SIT for further investigations.

In the video, the labourer was hacked and burnt to death.

"The labourer died on the spot," police said.

According to the IG Udaipur Anand Srivastava, the accused was also seen shouting at the victim in the video.

The investigation is on and the matter is being probed, he added.

Three felicitated in Odisha for helping accident victims

KENDRAPARA (ODISHA), DEC 7 (PTI): Police today felicitated three people of Jagatsinghpur district for coming to the aid of road accident victims last month.

Three residents of Raghunathpur town- Saroj Das, Raghunath Moharana and Dinanath Singh - were given cash incentives and certificates for extending help to shift as many as 19 road accident victims to a hospital on November 21, said Jay Narayan Pankaj, Superintendent of Police, Jagatsinghpur.

"It's refreshing to note that the Good Samaritan policy adopted by the district police is reaping dividends.

More and more people are now coming forward to help accident victims," said Jay Narayan Pankaj, Superintendent of Police, Jagatsinghpur.

On the morning of November 21, a passenger bus had collided head on with a school van in Tarapur area. Both the vehicles skidded off the road and slipped into a ditch.

All three of them who were felicitated today had shown exemplary humanitarian attributes. They did their best to drag the passengers out of the crashed vehicles, the SP said. They also sent SOS to police, fire brigade and ambulances for the timely shifting of the victims, Pankaj said.

India cutting sorry figure with threats to artists: Bombay HC

MUMBAI, DEC 7 (PTI): A democratic country like India is cutting a very sorry figure with open threats being given to artists and others and with attacks on people for voicing their opinions, the Bombay High Court said today.

The high court, while referring to the Sanjay Leela Bhansali's controversy-hit film "Padmavati", observed that the director has not been able to release his film and an actress is facing death threats.

The HC also pulled up the CBI and the state CID, which are investigating the murder cases of rationalists Narendra Dabholkar and Govind Pansare respectively, over the failure to arrest the main suspects in these cases so far.

The strong remarks were made by a division bench of Justices S C Dharmadhikari and Bharti Dangre while hearing the petitions filed by family members of Dabholkar and Pansare seeking court supervision on their murder probe.

"In this country, we have come to a situation where people cannot voice

their opinions. Everytime a person says he or she wants to voice their opinion, somebody or a fringe group says they would not allow it. This does not augur well for the state," Justice Dharmadhikari said.

"In which other country do you see threats given to artists and performers? It is distressing to know that a person makes a feature film and several people work tirelessly towards it, but is not able to release the film because of continued threats. What have we come to?" he said.

"Today, somebody says I will give a reward to anyone who kills an actress. Such open threats! People are taking pride in saying we will give reward to those, who will kill an actress. And even chief ministers are saying they will not allow the release of the movie in their states," Justice Dharmadhikari said referring to some states banning the release of "Padmavati".

He added that if such things are happening to people with financial backings, what will happen to poor people.

The court noted that this was censorship of a different kind and it was damaging India's image.

"What concerns us is India's image and reputation as a democratic country. We are the largest democracy. We cannot take pride in the happenings of such incidents day in and day out. We are cutting a very sorry figure," Justice Dharmadhikari said.

Referring to the recent case where a foreign couple was attacked in Uttar Pradesh, he said, "Somebody visits this country as tourists and they are attacked."

The bench noted that states like Maharashtra and Karnataka are known for their "progressive and modern thinking".

"Maharashtra and Karnataka are known for social reformers and thinkers and with such incidents these states are cutting a sorry figure politically too," the court said.

It added that in other countries when any major incident occurs, the suspect is apprehended, dead or alive,

within hours.

"However, our country's agencies have not learnt anything from past incidents like the attack on Parliament and the Prime Minister," Justice Dharmadhikari said.

The court said Dabholkar was killed in 2013 and Pansare in 2015, but till date the investigating agencies (CBI and state CID) have not been able to arrest the main suspects.

"We cannot allow such serious matters to linger for years. We cannot allow constitutional rights to be taken away.

Enough damage has been caused already. Has any senior official from the two agencies bothered to find out why the probe is not getting any headway?" the court asked.

It said even after these two attacks, there are persons, who are openly and boldly voicing their opinions, are being threatened.

"At the core of these two crimes is the bold attempts being made by fringe groups to attack those who voice their rational views, thoughts, feelings and

expressions," the court said.

"Hence, we feel that it is time to call upon the CBI and the CID to involve their superiors. If the senior officials do not wish to be summoned to court, then they should meet with the counsels appearing in court and take stock of the situation," Justice Dharmadhikari said.

The court directed a meeting to be convened with secretary of state home department, Director General of Police (DGP) and Joint Director of CBI with Additional Solicitor General Anil Singh and Ashok Mundargi, who appears for CID in the matter.

The bench has now posted the matter for further hearing on December 21.

While the CBI is probing the Dabholkar case, the Pansare murder case is being investigated by a Special Investigation Team of the CID.

Dabholkar was murdered in Pune on August 20, 2013 and Pansare was shot on February 16, 2015 in Kolhapur. He died on February 20 in a hospital.

Coaches need to be respected and rewarded: Gopichand

MUMBAI, DEC 6 (PTI): Backing the view of shuttle ace Prakash Padukone, India's national badminton coach, Pullela Gopichand, today said sports coaches need to be respected and rewarded for new players to emerge.

"I completely agree with Prakash sir. It's very important that coaches need to be looked at, it's high time we looked at it because we should have looked at it in the past 10 years and we haven't. And it's not only badminton but across all sports; this is for me the most important thing which is there," Gopichand said here today.

"Coaches need to be respected, coaches need to be rewarded, coaches need to be awarded and people should be motivated to take up coaching," said Gopichand on the sidelines of the function to announce a grass-roots talent hunt plan by his academy with IDBI Federal Life Insurance.

A few days ago Prakash said that it was high time the badminton-governing body in the country, BAI, Sports Authority of India and the sports ministry looked at coaching the coaches by inviting top foreign coaches to do the job.

"We treat Indian coaches differently, foreign coaches differently. I'll have to say this openly, but there's not a single rupee of remuneration which any of the coaches in the past have got from either the federation or the SAI. It's time



they start looking at coaches differently, start looking at coaching differently. And unless we do that we can't sustain the ecosystem of sports," he explained.

"I think this is an aspect which, for the last few years, has been a challenge of the entire ecosystem which brings the best players back into the sport. And creating good coaches doesn't end with giving them good training. It is the entire ecosystem which is important. A coach needs to be respected.

"I'm sure everyone has these challenges in the teaching profession as well. The best mind doesn't get into teaching. Likewise, we also face the same challenges with coaching. Coaches need to be trained, need to be motivated, need to be recognised, need to be rewarded. All these are important.

"In the entire ecosystem of the sport, how many coaches do we know from various fields? Even sportspersons, reporters, and myself, we would not know

so many of them.

Also, how much of pay we give them is also important," he remarked.

"The best models in the world are where they're coached at and athlete-centric and system-driven and unfortunately we're far away from that model," he added.

Gopichand also expressed concerns over the cramped international calendar of the Badminton World Federation.

"I think they've cramped the calendar too much. It's unfortunate the kind of thinking that the BWF has. And I don't agree to what they have in terms of getting players to play so many tournaments. And there are players who're already getting injured, performances have not been consistent at all and it doesn't help the players' cause when they have to continue to push themselves to play so many tournaments.

"There're so many ways of ensuring that the sport is promoted and cramping up the calendar and forcing the players to play is not a very good idea," he added.

On the new service rule announced by the BWF, he said "I approve of it."

As per the new rule, the shuttle should be below 1.15 metres from the surface of the court at the instant of being hit by the server's racquet.

IMA writes to BCCI over match played in polluted conditions

NEW DELHI, DEC 7 (PTI): The Indian Medical Association has told the Board of Control for Cricket in India that it was greatly troubled over the Test match between India and Sri Lanka being played in Delhi amid high pollution levels.

In a letter to BCCI acting president C K Khanna and head of committee of administrators Vinod Rai, IMA president Dr KK Agarwal said the message that has gone home from the India and Sri Lanka cricket match is that it is safe for children to play cricket even when PM 2.5 levels are more than 300.

The five-day match, in which Sri Lankan play-

ers were seen wearing masks on the field, ended yesterday.

"Rain and poor light are taken into consideration when determining suitable playing conditions, we suggest that atmospheric pollution should now also be included in the assessing criteria for a match," the letter said.

Agarwal said air pollution impacts on performance of the athletes. In a situation where milliseconds and millimetres often determine success, air pollution can be an important factor in affecting their performance, he wrote.

He quoted from medical literature and journals and said poor air quality in the country's capital may increase the risk of lung and heart disease and precipitate an acute potentially life-threatening event.

The safe levels of atmospheric particulate matter (PM), according to World Health Organization (WHO) air quality guidelines, are 20 g/cu mm (annual mean) for PM10 and 10 g/cu mm (annual mean) for PM2.5. If the air quality index (AQI) is between 151 and 200, it is recommended that outdoor exercises should be reduced.

46th FIH Congress in New Delhi from Oct 30 to Nov 03

SUMOJYOTI S CHOUDHURY BHUBANESWAR, DEC 7 (PTI):

The 46th Congress of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) will be held in New Delhi from October 30 to November 3 next year.

With former Hockey India chief Narinder Batra being elected as the first non-European FIH President last year, the power centre of world hockey seems to have shifted its base from Europe.

As a matter of fact, it will be the first FIH Congress under Batra's leadership after he took over the reins of world hockey from Spaniard Leandro Negre.

The biennial event will run for four days and will comprise meetings, social events, networking opportunities and presentations.

The Congress, which will have representations from the National Associations, will also chart out the future roadmap of the game, including the ongoing Hockey Revolution, FIH's 10-year strategy to drive hockey's status as a global sport.

The next FIH Congress will hold greater significance as the game is about to witness a transition phase in 2019 with the introduction of the world body's ambitious Hockey Pro League, a new home-and-away league which is expected to stretch over the first six months of a calendar year.

"Our next Congress will be held in New Delhi from October 30 to November 3. The next Congress is very important for us as hockey will witness transition in 2019. As part of our Hockey Revolution, the Hockey Pro League will start in 2019," FIH President Narinder Batra told PTI on the sidelines of the ongoing Hockey World League (HWL) Final, here.

With just one year to go before the HPL actually kicks off, the project remains a mystery as the FIH is yet to come out with the details of

the tournament.

Another factor which is a concern for many is scheduling as the Pro League will coincide with the European Hockey League, the bread and butter for international hockey players.

A few years back, hockey was in danger of being dropped from the Olympic sport but the FIH chief says the future of the sport is safe and secured.

"Hockey is not facing any threat. The future of hockey is safe. In fact, we are witnessing a rise in hockey's popularity. Hockey has survived and will continue to survive," Batra said.

"The game is being played by 170 countries. Yes, all hockey playing countries doesn't belong to the same level but the game is in a better position."

With changes and innovations becoming the need of the hour for any sport, the FIH chief has welcomed Hockey India's recent experiment with mixed-gender event during its Hockey 5s National Championships.

He, however, said that trying out a new thing doesn't necessarily mean the world body is contemplating of introducing it.

"Hockey 5s mixed event was tried for the first time with FIH's approval and it turned out to be a huge success," Batra said.

"Every national association has right to try out new things with FIH's approval but it doesn't mean the FIH is thinking of implementing it. FIH is open to national associations trying out new things like 2 goals for one field goal rule of Hockey India League.

"We, at FIH, have a technical committee with experts in it who constantly discuss all these changes. We have a system in place and we work according to that system," the FIH President added.

India will also host the men's Hockey World Cup to be held in Bhubaneswar from November 28 to December 16 next year.

JLR launches Range Rover Velar priced up to Rs 1.38 crore

NEW DELHI, DEC 7 (PTI): Tata Motors-owned Jaguar Land Rover today launched its latest SUV model, Range Rover Velar in India priced between Rs 78.83 lakh and Rs 1.38 crore (ex-showroom Delhi).

The company will start deliveries of the model by end of January 2018. It expects the Range Rover Velar to be one of its main volume drivers in the SUV segment.

"The Velar fills a gap in our Range Rover portfolio between Evoque and Range Rover Sport (rpt) Range Rover Sport.

This is a product which will help us tremendously in the market and we expect this to be one of our mainstays in SUV segment," Jaguar Land Rover India President & MD Rohit Suri told PTI.

The new model will be available in three engine options of 2-litre petrol, 2-litre diesel and 3-litre diesel.

The 2-litre engine variant in both petrol and diesel options are



priced between Rs 78.83 lakh and Rs 91.86 lakh; while the 3-litre diesel variant is tagged at a price ranging from Rs 1.1-1.38 crore (all prices ex-showroom Delhi).

Suri said the model will be fully imported and the company has received almost "100 per cent pre-bookings for up to March next year".

"The response we have got for the Range Rover Velar has been tremendous," he said without disclosing the booking numbers.

So far in the January-September (rpt) January-September period this fiscal, JLR sales have grown 45 per cent over the year-ago period, he said, adding the company expected to carry

forward the sales momentum on the back of new products and network expansion.

JLR's SUV portfolio in India includes Discovery Sport (starting price Rs 42 lakh); Range Rover Evoque (Rs 44.44 lakh); Discovery (Rs 71.38 lakh); Range Rover Sport (Rs 93.82 lakh) and Range Rover (Rs 1.66 crore).

Can Cong breach BJP stronghold of 'diamond city' Surat?

PRASHANT THAKOR

AHMEDABAD, DEC 7 (PTI):

Surat -- Gujarat's diamond city and the epicenter of the Patidar quota movement -- is set for a tough Assembly poll battle as the Congress has added the face of the Patidar agitation Hardik Patel to its arsenal this time.

Amid issues like implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and demonetisation, apart from the 'Patidar' factor, it is to be seen for whom the large trading community of this diamond and textile hub will vote, when the city goes to polls in the first phase on Saturday.

Though Ahmedabad is the largest city of Gujarat, Surat is a favoured destination of political heavyweights in this poll season.

Congress Vice President Rahul Gandhi visited the city twice last month to understand the plight of those who were 'hit by GST and note ban'.

During his visit, Gandhi also addressed a huge rally in

the city's Patidar strongholds - Varachha and Katargam.

On December 3, quota agitation leader Hardik Patel led a mega road show in Varachha. Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani led the BJP's road show in Majura area the same day.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi last month addressed a rally at Kadodara, located on the city's outskirts.

The Congress is hoping to snatch some seats from the BJP this time by capitalising on the 'anger' factor of Patidars and the traders.

On the other side, the BJP is confident of retaining its bastion, as its leaders claim the 'ground reality' is different from what the Congress is projecting.

Out of the total 12 constituencies in Surat city, nearly half of the seats - Varachha Road, Kamrej, Katargam, Karanj, Olpad and Udhna - have a concentrated population of Patidars, who mostly migrated here from Saurashtra.

The remaining six seats are - Surat-East, Surat-North, Surat-West, Choryasi, Limbayat and Majura.

To some extent, Surat-North and Majura seats also have a significant population of Patidars, who are into various businesses, including diamond cutting, polishing, trading and in different trades associated with textiles.

The city has been a bastion of the BJP since long.

But, the political scenario in this bustling business hub seems to have changed after Hardik Patel started the agitation to get reservation for his community two years back.

At that time, Surat witnessed large scale violence and arson, mostly in Varachha and adjoining areas.

Out of the two sedition cases lodged against Hardik, one was registered in Surat. Since then, the Hardik-led agitating body - Patidar Anamat Andolan Samiti (PAAS) - is up in arms against the ruling BJP and has vowed to defeat it.

Notably, BJP president Amit Shah had to cut short his speech at a function in Varachha area in September when some PAAS agitators created chaos by shouting slogans and throwing chairs.

Now, in an apparent bid to thwart the anti-incumbency factor following the Patidar 'anger', the BJP has dropped six of its sitting MLAs - from Kamrej, Surat-East, Surat-North, Karanj, Udhna and Katargam seats.

These leaders include sitting MLA of Katargam, Nanu Vanani, who is a minister in the Rupani government.

Out of the nearly 1.98 lakh voters of Varachha Road seat, the Patidars are in the driving seat with their number being over 1.5 lakh.

In Kamrej, where the total electorate is about 4.28 lakh, the Patidars alone account for over two lakh.

In Katargam, having around 2.77 voters, the Patidars are in a dominating position with over 1.18 lakh

electorate.

Besides the 'angry' Patidars and traders, there are various other factors which could breach the hull of BJP's ship in this coastal city.

Since a large population, mostly Patels, of this city belongs to Saurashtra region, the agrarian crisis back home could also add fuel into their 'anger' here, Surat city Congress president Hasnmukh Desai said.

"Many decades back, Patels and other communities from Saurashtra region started settling here. Since they still own agricultural land back home, they are holding the BJP government responsible for their dwindling farm income. It is possible that their anger could reflect in the voting here," Desai said.

Apart from Patidars, the Congress is also banking on small traders and entrepreneurs whose businesses were claimed to have been hit by demonetisation and the implementation of GST

by the BJP-led government at the Centre.

In July, the textile traders of Surat city called a massive strike against the GST.

The Congress was quick to take up the issue and party vice president Rahul Gandhi held two back-to-back visits last month.

"On one side we are getting full support from the Patidars, while on the other the trading community and the shopkeepers, who are spread across the city, are seeing a ray of hope in Congress after Gandhi's visit. All the factors are in our favour," Desai claimed.

However, the BJP discarded the argument, claiming that the ground reality is totally different.

"Though traders were unhappy initially, they now understand the benefits of GST. This so-called anger will never convert into votes. If the people were still against us, then why so many had turned up for the chief minister's rally?" BJP's sitting MLA from

Majura, Harsh Sanghvi, asked.

Meanwhile, the PAAS members have already hit the streets in the Patidar-dominated areas to convince people not to vote for the BJP.

According to PAAS convenor for Surat, Dharmik Malavia, they have set a target of defeating the BJP on at least five seats - Varachha Road, Karanj, Kamrej, Olpad and Surat-North.

"When we tell people do not vote for the BJP, it implies that vote for Congress if you want to uproot the party which committed atrocities on us," Malavia said.

"The people are in our support and the BJP candidates are finding it difficult to even enter into the Patidar societies for canvassing," he claimed.

The 182-member Gujarat Assembly will go to the polls in two phases -- on December 9 and 14 -- and the counting of votes will be taken up on December 18.

Australia lawmakers approve same-sex marriage

SYDNEY, DEC 7 (AFP): Gay couples will be able to legally marry in Australia after a same-sex marriage bill sailed through parliament today, ending decades of political wrangling.

There were loud cheers, hugs and sustained clapping in the 150-seat lower House of Representatives when all but four MPs voted in support of marriage equality, after the upper house Senate passed the bill 43-12 last week.

"What a day for love, for equality, for respect! Australia has done it," Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull told the House.

"Every Australian had their say and they said it is fair, get on with it!"

The historic reforms will commence on Saturday, when same-sex couples can a lodge a notice to marry. They will then have to wait a month before tying the knot.

Labor opposition leader Bill Shorten hailed the passing of the bill as a uniting moment for Australia, adding: "Now is the time for healing".

"A time to build, a time to love, and is now at last a time for marriage equality," he said.

Same-sex marriage campaigners converged outside parliament in the nation's capital Canberra to celebrate the historic occasion, which sees Australia join more than 20 other countries in recognising such unions.

The bill was tabled in parliament by the conservative government after Australians last month endorsed the reforms in a controversial voluntary postal vote.

Nearly 80 per cent of eligible voters took part in the poll, and almost 62 per cent of the 12.7 million people who participated chose "yes" on their postal ballots.

The ballot had been called by Turnbull, a moderate who backed gay marriage, in the face of opposition from hardliners who refused to back a national plebiscite on the issue.

It was opposed by proponents of same-sex marriage, who wanted direct legislative action and argued a poll would expose gay people and their families to hate speech.

Just under five million people voted "no", with conservative politicians using their rejection of gay marriage as a catalyst to push for religious exemptions to be included in the bill.

But after lengthy debate, both houses of parliament knocked back amendments to the bill, including from former prime minister and staunch "no" campaigner Tony Abbott, on religious freedom.

UN Security Council to meet on Friday on Jerusalem

UNITED NATIONS, DEC 7 (PTI): The United Nations Security Council has convened an emergency meeting tomorrow after US President Donald Trump in a controversial move recognised Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

Trump recognised Jerusalem as Israel's capital, reversing decades of US and international policy on the holy city. He also directed the State Department to immediately begin the process of construction of a US Embassy in Jerusalem.

At least eight of the 15 members of the Security Council, including Britain and France - the two perma-

nent members which closely align themselves on most of the global issues - joined by other non-permanent members -- Bolivia, Egypt, Italy, Senegal, Sweden, Britain and Uruguay -- asked for a special meeting of the top decision-making wing of the New York-headquartered world body.

The UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres' is expected to address the Security Council tomorrow.

Earlier in a statement, Guterres said that Jerusalem was the final status issue and must be resolved through direct negotiations.

"In this moment of great anxiety,

I want to make it clear: there is no alternative to the two-state solution.

There is no Plan B," he said, adding that he has consistently spoken out against any unilateral measures that would "jeopardise" the prospect of peace for Israelis and Palestinians.

"Jerusalem is a final status issue that must be resolved through direct negotiations between the two parties on the basis of the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, taking into account the legitimate concerns of both the Palestinian and the Israeli sides," Guterres said.

Trump's decision to recognise

Jerusalem as Israel's capital has outraged several countries.

Many of American allies and partners have criticised Trump for the controversial decision.

British Prime Minister Theresa May in a statement said she disagreed with the US announcement to move its embassy to Jerusalem and recognise Jerusalem as the Israeli capital before a final status agreement.

"We believe it is unhelpful in terms of prospects for peace in the region. The British Embassy to Israel is based in Tel Aviv and we have no plans to move it," she said.

May stressed that the status of Jerusalem should be "determined in a negotiated settlement between the Israelis the Palestinians".

"Our position on the status of Jerusalem is clear and long-standing: it should be determined in a negotiated settlement between the Israelis and the Palestinians," she said, adding that "Jerusalem should ultimately be the shared capital of the Israeli and Palestinian states".

"In line with relevant Security Council Resolutions, we regard East Jerusalem as part of the Occupied Palestinian Territories," May said.



The leader of Hamas is calling for a new uprising, while Israel's army deploys reinforcements in the West Bank after Donald Trump's decision to recognise Jerusalem as Israel's capital city. World leaders are rushing to condemn President Trump's move, with many fearing a third Intifada and the kiss of death for the peace process. Presidents and prime ministers from across the globe warned Mr Trump against moving the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

US to 'immediately' begin process to move embassy to Jerusalem: Tillerson

LALIT K JHA

WASHINGTON, DEC 7 (PTI):

The US will immediately begin the process to move its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has said, after President Donald Trump recognised the holy city as Israel's capital.

In a major announcement, Trump recognised Jerusalem as Israel's capital yesterday despite warnings from the Arab leaders, reversing decades of US and international policy on the holy city.

"The State Department will immediately begin the process to implement this decision by starting the preparations to move the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem," Tillerson said.

The President Trump's decision to recognise Jerusalem as Israel's capital aligns the US presence with the reality that Jerusalem is home to Israel's legislature, Supreme Court, president's office, and prime minister's office,

Tillerson said in a statement.

"We have consulted with many friends, partners, and allies in advance of the President making his decision. We firmly believe there is an opportunity for a lasting peace," he said.

Tillerson said the the safety of Americans was the State Department's highest priority, and with other federal agencies, it has implemented robust security plans to protect its citizens in affected regions.

In his landmark announcement, Trump said consistent with the Jerusalem Embassy Act, he was directing the State Department to begin preparation to move the American Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

"This will immediately begin the process of hiring architects, engineers and planners, so that a new embassy, when completed, will be a magnificent tribute to peace," he said.

The controversial decision received mixed reactions.

"I have long believed that Jerusalem is the true capital of Israel. However, issues surrounding the final and permanent status of Jerusalem must ultimately be resolved by Israelis and Palestinians as part of an internationally supported peace process," Senator John McCain said.

"That is why today's policy announcement, as well as any future relocation of the US Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, should be part of a comprehensive diplomatic strategy in coordination with regional partners to achieve peace and security between Israelis and Palestinians," he said.

Democratic Senator Tim Kaine, member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said the reaction from across the world is "troubling", including from important allies of Israel, and asserted that the announcement could have "destabilising consequences" for a region already rife with tensions.

"I am worried about the impact of this decision on the safety of US personnel overseas and have raised my concerns with the State Department to ensure sufficient security measures are in place at all US embassies and consulates," he said.

Another Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi rued that in the absence of a negotiated settlement between Israel and the Palestinians, moving the US embassy to Jerusalem now may "needlessly spark mass protests, fuel tensions, and make it more difficult to reach a durable peace".

Senator Marco Rubio said, "Today's announcement is an important step in the right direction. Unequivocal recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital will be complete when the US embassy is officially relocated there".

Following the Trump's decision, many Arab leaders warned that it could trigger an upheaval in the already volatile Middle East.

N Korea says war is inevitable as allies continue war games

SEOUL, DEC 7 (AP):

North Korea says a nuclear war on the Korean Peninsula has become a matter of when, not if, as it continued to lash out at a massive joint military exercise between the United States and South Korea involving hundreds of advanced warplanes.

In comments attributed to an unnamed For-

eign Ministry spokesman, North Korea also claimed high-ranked US officials, including CIA Director Mike Pompeo, have further confirmed American intent for war with a series of "bellicose remarks".

Pompeo said Saturday that US intelligence agencies believe North Korean leader Kim Jong Un

doesn't have a good idea about how tenuous his situation is domestically and internationally.

The North's spokesman said Pompeo provoked the country by "impudently criticizing our supreme leadership which is the heart of our people".

"The large-scale nuclear war exercises conducted

by the US in succession are creating touch-and-go situation on the Korean peninsula and series of violent war remarks coming from the US high-level politicians amid such circumstances have made an outbreak of war on the Korean peninsula an established fact. The remaining question now is: when will the war break

out," the spokesman said.

"We do not wish for a war but shall not hide from it, and should the US miscalculate our patience and light the fuse for a nuclear war, we will surely make the US dearly pay the consequences."

The comments were carried by the official Korean Central News Agency.

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RAFFLE RESULT

The raffle result drawn by **Namchi Girls Senior Secondary School** during the celebration of School Fest "SPECTRUM" 2017 are as follows:

1st prize - B 3494

2nd prize - A 3664

3rd prize - C 8507

CONSOLATION PRIZES: B 5863, C 1200, A 8070, B 1220, A 7018.

To claim for the individual prizes are request to claim within the 15 days of this advertisement or may can contact organising committee of the school fest.

CONTACT: 98361-54694

ANTHEYSTHI KRIYA



The Antheysthi Kriya of **Late Ram Bahadur Rai** who left for his heavenly abode on 02/12/2017 falls on **08/12/2017 (Friday)**. All friends, relatives and well-wishers are requested to join us in offering

prayers for departed soul at Ranka, Zero Mile, East Sikkim.

Kamla Rai (wife), Pravin Rai & Sushant Rai (sons)

Ph. 8759347021, 9733053324

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| SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES | |
|---|--|
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| Draw No:1 DrawDate on:07/12/17 1st Prize Rs.1000/- 1922 2nd Prize Rs.1,000/- 2123 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 4255 4th Prize Rs.300/- 1250 5th Prize Rs. 203/- 5439 6th Prize Rs.100/- | Draw No:1 DrawDate on:07/12/17 1st Prize Rs.10,000/- 3768 2nd Prize Rs.2,000/- 4748 3rd Prize Rs.1,000/- 4673 4th Prize Rs.500/- 4597 5th Prize Rs.200/- |
| 1077 1085 1090 1119 1268 1273 1279 1312 1324 1325 1351 1383 1391 1394 1405 1445 1474 1478 1480 1483 1484 1494 1500 1544 1546 1562 1580 1606 1617 1618 1627 1638 1641 1666 1710 1712 1727 1784 1785 1820 1867 1886 1911 1926 1947 1971 2019 2026 2057 2083 2105 2154 2162 2165 2174 2175 2178 2240 2256 2438 2480 2510 2511 2512 2513 2515 2548 2565 2576 2585 2588 2605 2627 2704 2716 2725 2743 2763 2804 2955 3042 3052 3115 3207 3240 3262 3290 3298 3321 3328 3367 3397 3400 3495 3507 3509 3550 3574 3617 3654 3666 3698 3708 3738 3743 3758 3794 3805 3820 3829 3844 3855 3879 3926 3983 4007 4029 4059 4095 4103 4112 4122 4168 4182 4228 4245 4278 4280 4282 4329 4366 4408 4436 4473 4490 4521 4551 4559 4587 4600 4605 4611 4647 4660 4668 4676 4798 4811 4833 4872 4874 4880 4906 4908 4912 4920 4963 4968 4979 5039 5118 5148 5146 5156 5157 5201 5240 5265 5246 5295 5306 5312 5404 5452 5457 5461 5477 5488 5527 5530 5533 5549 5600 5622 5641 5656 5656 5666 5682 5694 5706 5721 5730 5734 5793 5796 5817 5827 5886 5888 5893 5899 5903 5908 5956 5966 6011 6018 6030 6039 6113 6121 6131 6179 6183 6189 6218 6226 6248 6257 6268 6273 6295 6322 6348 6365 6424 6433 6570 6584 6659 6705 6714 6788 6815 6815 6816 6903 6907 | 1005 1054 1060 1082 1086 1087 1100 1119 1125 1256 1295 1306 1307 1319 1361 1370 1379 1451 1454 1505 1518 1523 1576 1606 1609 1616 1623 1625 1645 1666 1693 1696 1700 1706 1763 1767 1772 1795 1806 1833 1845 1872 1896 1927 1957 1975 2011 2048 2094 2104 2125 2138 2227 2256 2266 2268 2291 2299 2304 2305 2332 2334 2336 2342 2374 2452 2453 2459 2474 2487 2494 2501 2539 2549 2553 2570 2579 2596 2611 2618 2614 2695 2712 2786 2788 2796 2797 2798 2821 2852 2883 2933 2950 2954 2985 3011 3050 3056 3068 3107 3114 3139 3143 3159 3232 3258 3285 3337 3351 3364 3384 3389 3487 3505 3511 3521 3535 3546 3629 3636 3644 3648 3695 3701 3763 3769 3789 3832 3842 3866 3868 3923 3944 3948 3990 4059 4096 4148 4152 4182 4186 4205 4206 4218 4234 4288 4315 4321 4331 4363 4445 4487 4500 4553 4587 4625 4642 4645 4657 4699 4735 4750 4751 4817 4894 4914 5040 5060 5095 5110 5126 5165 5189 5246 5260 5273 5287 5301 5333 5363 5402 5484 5499 5518 5545 5560 5589 5602 5642 5670 5746 5751 5770 5819 5868 5880 5902 5910 5956 5975 |

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KINDLY CHECK THE RESULT WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE

| NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES | |
|--|---|
| DEAR KIND MORNING | DEAR WORTHY |
| Draw Time: 11:55 am onwards Draw No:1 DrawDate on:07/12/17 1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 876 19261 (Including Super Prize Amt) | Draw Time: 04:00 pm onwards Draw No:1 DrawDate on:07/12/17 1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 731 89403 (Including Super Prize Amt) |
| Cons. Prize Rs.9497/- 19261 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS) 2nd Prize Rs.9000/- 12209 21702 26130 41872 49400 64583 66611 72072 77912 86216 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 2757 3483 4710 5395 5690 6987 7387 9072 9629 9700 4th Prize Rs.250/- 0063 0439 1628 1860 3834 4208 5000 6883 7213 7661 5th Prize Rs.120/- 0160 0235 0752 0912 0948 0985 1183 1215 1271 1282 1314 1696 1825 1830 1926 1965 2096 2215 2317 2409 2733 2771 2868 2916 2935 2993 3025 3110 3167 3240 3287 3327 3377 3441 3588 3611 3659 3669 3673 3713 3830 3882 4327 4351 4374 4510 4620 4659 4855 5014 5140 5357 5434 5534 5764 5790 5882 5888 5914 6093 6274 6369 6450 6496 6743 6758 7007 7067 7089 7134 7168 7169 7182 7391 7436 7600 7770 7775 7881 8102 8107 8168 8365 8369 8374 8394 8398 8555 8577 8621 8627 8687 8743 8951 9023 9222 9387 9452 9778 9821 | Cons. Prize Rs.9497/- 89403 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS) 2nd Prize Rs.9000/- 08617 16543 20380 31294 42344 55808 65813 76943 79248 88488 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0116 1884 2281 2829 2951 4703 7180 8776 8876 9547 4th Prize Rs.250/- 1324 2584 2742 6111 6441 7007 7110 8468 8881 9307 5th Prize Rs.120/- 0031 0213 0337 0603 0736 0795 0800 0812 0838 0869 0888 0891 0917 1159 1169 1194 1213 1702 1772 1939 1958 2121 2183 2197 2256 2352 2582 2681 2752 2941 3009 3186 3192 3244 3373 3577 3658 3732 3796 3798 4022 4204 4284 4359 4423 4573 4621 4656 4664 4772 4931 4971 5068 5274 5371 5393 5428 5581 5750 5798 7062 7170 7176 7249 7273 7401 7620 7637 7849 7877 7934 7935 7947 8165 8183 8344 8416 8428 8504 8600 8660 9137 9272 9297 9416 9419 9481 9499 9715 9953 |

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Ryan Reynolds set to star in Pokemon live-action movie 'Detective Pikachu'



Gotta catch 'em all!

Ryan Reynolds is set to star in the live-action movie adaptation of Pokemon, according to the The Hollywood Reporter in a post published on Wednesday, December 6.

The 41-year-old Deadpool actor will star alongside Jurassic World star Justice Smith and Big Little Lies actress Kathryn Newton. Reynolds will play the title role in the film, Detective Pikachu, which tells the tale of a teen (Smith) whose father is kidnapped, leading him to link up with Pikachu in order to find his father and uncover the mystery behind his disappearance. The team is later joined by a spunky journalist

(Newton) who helps them on their mission.

THR reported that Reynold's role will be motion capture inaction and the production company, Legendary, is eager to keep additional casting details and information about the project under wraps.

Wait, what's Detective Pikachu?

Great Detective Pikachu is a video game released in Japan (and Japan only) in 2016. You play as a regular kid walking around trying to solve mysteries, only you're also accompanied by Pikachu, who can now talk and wears a Sherlock Holmes hat.



THIS DAY IN HISTORY

08th December

1941 - U.S.A. -- US Enters World War II: Following the unprovoked Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor the United States entered World War II as Congress declared war against Japan

1941 - CHINA -- At War with Germany, Japan and Italy: In Chungking, Quo Tai-Chi, China's foreign minister confirmed that China was now at war with Germany, Japan, and Italy. The minister declared that the Chinese would back the allies, the U.S., and Great Britain one hundred percent.

1980 - U.S.A. -- John Lennon Shot: Former Beatle John Lennon was shot dead by an unknown gunman who opened fire outside the musician's New York apartment. The gunman is later identified as Mark David Chapman

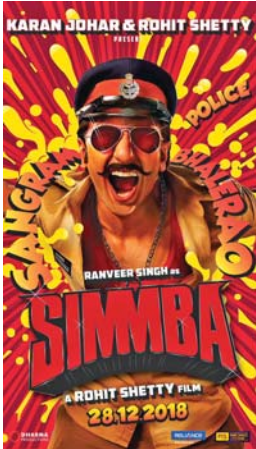
2004 - Iraq -- State Of

Emergency: A two month state of emergency was declared by the Iraq government as rebels stepped up their attacks and the American military fought back. U.S. forces stormed the city of Fallujah and pummeled it with an AC-130 gun ship shooting 40 mm cannon fire.

2012 - Cambodia -- Market Fire Kills Eight: A market fire caused by an electrical fault in the town of Siem Reap in Cambodia killed eight people including four children.

2013 - United Kingdom -- Singer Susan Boyle Announces Asperger's Diagnosis: Britain's Got Talent singer Susan Boyle announced that she had been diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome. While Boyle says this diagnosis will not change her life she believes that it gives her a greater understanding of herself, having been previously diagnosed with brain damage at birth.

RANVEER SINGH IS A NOTORIOUS COP IN ROHIT SHETTY'S NEW FILM



Ranveer took to Twitter to announce the project, which will be co-produced by Karan Johar's Dharma Productions.

It's raining movies and looks like Ranveer Singh is making the most of it. Yes! The actor, who is all set to begin the shoot of Gully Boys early next year, has collaborated with director Rohit Shetty for a new film Simmba.

Ranveer took to Twitter to announce the project, which will be co-produced by Karan Johar's Dharma Productions. The actor also shared his first look from the film which reminds us of none other than Salman Khan's notorious police officer Chulbul Pandey in Dabangg. Last night, both Ranveer and Karan hinted that they'd be making a big announcement on their social media accounts.

While Karan tweeted, "BIG ANNOUNCEMENT tomorrow morning!!!! Extremely excited about this collaboration!!!! Watch this space..."

Ranveer wrote, "A 'notorious' surprise coming your way tomorrow :) Stay Tuned...!"

If a report in Times Now is to be believed, Simmba is a remake of Jr. NTR's Telugu blockbuster Temper. The new film, which is set to release on December 28 next year, will see Ranveer in the role of a cop named Sangram Bhalerao aka Simmba.

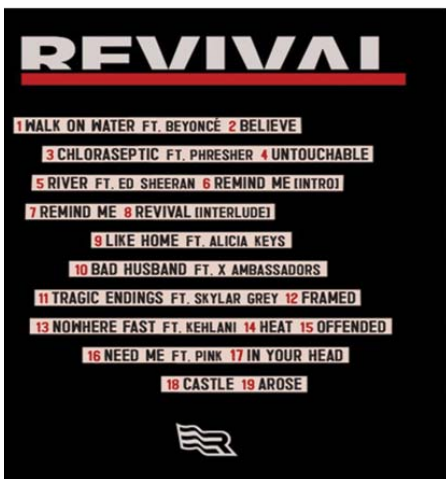
EMINEM REVEALS TRACK LIST, COLLABORATORS FOR NEWEST ALBUM

Eminem is back to revive his career

The Detroit-based rapper, who hasn't released a studio album in four years, announced last month that "Revival" was on its way. On Tuesday, he tweeted the track list for the album, which will be released Dec. 15.

He'll collaborate with a handful of artists, including Ed Sheeran, Pink and Alicia Keys. In all, the album will have 19 tracks, including the already-released "Walk on Water," a collaboration with Beyoncé. This will be Eminem's ninth solo studio album and first since "The Marshall Mathers LP 2" in 2013.

While "Water" is a downbeat, self-lacerating musing on what he apparently feels is his inability to live up to his audience's expectations, some fans were more encouraged by "The Storm," an acapella free-style that premiered during the BET Hip-Hop Awards that eviscerated President Trump in classic Eminem fashion. Whether he follows through with that fire on the album remains to be seen.

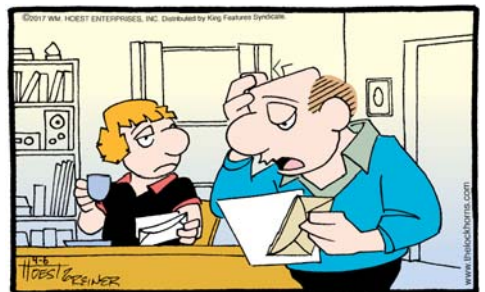


WONDER WOMAN GADOT: Gal Gadot speaks onstage at The Hollywood Reporter's 2017 Women In Entertainment Breakfast at Milk Studios in Los Angeles.



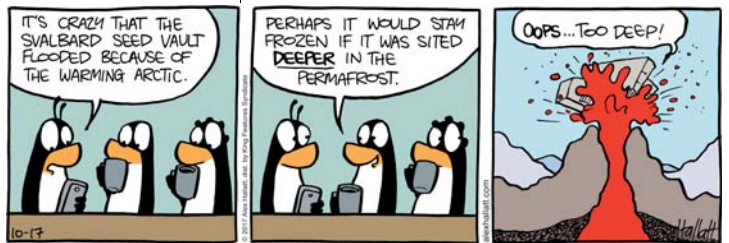
LOCKHORNS

- HOEST & REINER



ARCTIC CIRCLE

- HALLATT



BABY BLUES

- KIRKMAN & SCOTT



ARIES: This will be an excellent day to start some of the projects you've held back for some time. You'll likely feel more physical and mental energy than you've experienced lately. Whether your day is filled with work or play, things are going to go great. You can tackle tasks with confidence. Be productive by giving your energy a place to go.

TAURUS: You might be more energetic than you've felt in a long time. It's the perfect day to get busy with tasks, projects, and housework. You'll breeze through most things in no time and enjoy them. Resist any temptation to procrastinate! If you put things off, you'll miss the current

cosmic support. Make a list of things to do and start. You'll be done before you know it!

GEMINI: If only more days could be this easy. The energy from the aspects is revitalizing, allowing you to get a lot accomplished. If there's something you've hesitated to do, seize some of the day's added confidence and go for it. You'll succeed at anything you take on. Don't get caught up in doing another's work.

CANCER: Today will start off with an energy boost for you. Seize the opportunity to make the most of this by getting those major projects and chores handled. It isn't every day that you

feel this good. If you get to work right off the bat, you'll have plenty of time to do something recreational afterward. If you're into sports, the extra energy will give you quite an edge.

LEO: Today the cosmic conditions are great for peak physical and mental energy. You'll be able to take on almost anything. With an added increase to your confidence level, now is the time to take steps toward your biggest goals. Rather than worry about rejection, think, "Nothing ventured, nothing gained." Even though you aren't big on taking risks, the ones you take today will be worth it.

VIRGO: Expect to enjoy today. You're in great shape and oper-

ating at peak performance. These are excellent conditions for working or creating. Given the chance, your mind will team with innovative ideas. Put effort into everything you do today. If the opportunity comes up to participate in a new venture, give it serious thought. It could be a smart move.

LIBRA: The energy today means you'll feel on top of the world. Given your usual hardworking nature, you may need to keep an eye out for exhaustion. While the extra strength, health, and mental sharpness give you tremendous support to get a lot done, you have to know when to quit for the day, too. Save some of that energy for social or recreational activities.

SCORPIO: You're off to an excellent start. If you've felt a little weary lately, this will change. Added mental and physical strength is available to you. Things that seemed difficult yesterday will come easily today. Take out any projects or to-do lists and go for it. Things will be finished before you know it, and you'll still have a smile on your face. Know when to quit, though. You don't want to overdo it.

SAGITTARIUS: You might feel like you have more energy today than you usually do. Whether the tasks ahead require physical strength or mental acuity, approach them with confidence. Things come easily and readily,

and you can accomplish a great deal. Take a little of this energized time for socializing with a friend or engaging in your favorite hobbies. There's no need to direct it all into serious matters.

CAPRICORN: Expect to start your day with renewed strength and energy. Almost everything on your to-do list will fall into place. You can approach your projects with confidence and vigor because you can do what needs to be done. If there's something you've wanted to take on or start, you'll be hard-pressed to find a better day. Make the most of the confidence surge. There's nothing you can't handle.

AQUARIUS: This will be one of those days when you're glad to

get up. The energy is exceptionally positive. You'll probably feel energetic, confident, and ready to get down to work on your projects. This in combination with your tendency to work hard can have you going strong. Don't overdo it. Take some time to smell the roses and take a little rest.

PISCES: It's going to be a great day to get things done. Cosmic conditions will have you feeling energetic and raring to go. If there's a list of things to do waiting for you, grab it and get going. You might need to resist the temptation to spend time socializing. If you focus on your priorities, you'll be finished before you know it and there will still be plenty of time left for play.